IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method for synthesizing ~~preparing~~ one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs, ~~and~~ one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates, at least 1 mM magnesium ions, in the substantial absence of manganese ions, and ~~with~~ a purified polypeptide ~~DNA polymerase~~ that exhibits ~~the~~ an amino acid sequence exhibited by ~~the~~ a full-length DNA polymerase ~~derived~~ from a *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) ~~type~~ strain ~~5 in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby~~ selected from the group consisting of ATCC strain # 12016 and ATCC strain # 12980, under conditions wherein cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are synthesized ~~obtained and wherein the purified DNA polymerase is full-length Bst type strain 5 DNA polymerase~~.

61. (Currently Amended) A method for synthesizing ~~preparing~~ one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs, ~~and~~ one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates, at least 1 mM magnesium ions, in the substantial absence of manganese ions, and ~~with a purified DNA polymerase in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained, wherein the~~ a purified polypeptide that ~~DNA polymerase~~ exhibits ~~the~~ an amino acid sequence exhibited by ~~is the~~ a subtilisin digestion product of a full-length DNA polymerase derived from a *Bacillus*

stearothermophilus (Bst) ~~type~~ strain selected from the group consisting of ATCC strain # 12016 and ATCC strain # 12980, ~~5 DNA polymerase~~, wherein said subtilisin digestion product ~~that:~~ (a) has a mass of about 55 to about 65 kDA as determined by 10% SDS PAGE, ~~;~~ (b) lacks 5'-to-3' exonuclease activity, ~~;~~ and (c) has reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, under conditions wherein cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are synthesized.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.

68-70. (Cancelled)

71. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising using one or more of the one or more cDNA molecules that are synthesized as templates for amplifying one or more of the one or more RNA templates using PCR or a transcription-based amplification technique.

72. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein the transcription-based amplification technique is selected from the group consisting of NASBA, TMA, 3SR, and SPSR.

73. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising using one or more of the one or more cDNA molecules that are synthesized as templates for amplifying one or more of the one or more RNA templates using PCR or a transcription-based amplification technique.

74. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein the transcription-based amplification technique is selected from the group consisting of NASBA, TMA, 3SR, and SPSR.